(a) whether it is a fact that the Federation of Indian Mineral Industries (FIMI) has urged upon Government to declare mining as an 'Industry' ; and

(b) what new incentives/liberalised measure Government propose for the rapid growth of this important sector ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has adopted the National Mineral Policy recently. The policy provides various measures for rapid growth of the mineral sector. These include financing of mine development and also exploration integral to the mining project, fiscal measures designed to promote mineral exploration and development including beneficiation, promotion of small scale mining of small deposits, import of machinery and equipment to improve efficiency, productivity and economics of mining operations, incentives for utilisation of low grade minerals, mineral waste and rejects, induction of foreign technology and participation in exploration for high value and scarce minerals.

Export of Agricultural Products by the STC

1891. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the STC has formulated a strategy to boost agricultural exports within the next five years ;

(b) whether any concrete formula has been prepared in this regard ; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) STC plans :—

(i) procurement of agricultural products for direct expor instead of the existing system of back-to-back arrangements;

(ii) export of agricultural products in consumer packs under its own brand name, wherever possible.

(iii) sale of agricultural products like coffee and Basmati Rice on consignment basis ;

(iv) financial assistance to its associate suppliers for increasing the exports ;

(v) exploration of new distributing channels in potential markets.

LIC Court cases in connection with L & T Takeover

1892. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that LIC would be moving the court with regard to the L&T takeover controversy;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) how much money was budgeted for the purpose and how much of the same has been spent so far; and

(d) how much fee is estimated to be paid to M/s. Amarchand Mangaldas and Hiralal Shroff and Company, the solicitors, by LIC in the L&T matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) The LIC has no proposal

at present to move the Court with regard to the L&T takeover.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Showing of Blue Films in ITDC Hotels

1893. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:
SHRIMATI MIRA DAS:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item captioned 'Waiter' there is a blue film on my screen which appeared in the 'Sunday Observer' dated the 5th August, 1990;

(b) whether showing of blue films in ITDC hotels at midnight has been permitted by Government to attract tourists;

(c) if so, since when such permission is being granted and whether it is not contrary to Government's policy; and

(d) what corrective steps Government propose to take in the matter.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK): (a) Yes, Sir. The news-item has come to the notice of the Government. The film shown on CCTV in ITDC's Kanishka Hotel on 1st & 2nd August, 1990 were not blue film and bore 'A' Certificate of RCA-Columbia Pictures. However, these films were screened in violation of the prevailing contract entered into by the private party with the Hotel Management.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise

(d) The contract of the present supplier of films to Kanishka Hotel has not been renewed and the party has been given due notice for termination of the existing contract. Besides, ITDC has issued instructions to its hotel units to strictly screen only those films on CCTV which have been duly certified by the Central Board of Film Censor.

Decline in Credit Deposit Ratio

1894. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that credit deposit ratio in most of the States has declined;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, Statewise; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefore?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) to (c) A Statement giving statewise credit deposit ratio of all Scheduled Commercial Banks as on March 1989 and March 1990 (latest available) is enclosed (*See* below) The variations in credit deposit ratio differ from State to State. The credit extended by bank in any particular geographical area is determined by various factors such as the level of economic activity, which in turn is influenced by several factors such as availability of infrastructural facilities like transport and power, proximity to sources of raw material, access to marketing local entrepreneurship etc. As a consequence credit deposit ratios differ among regions.